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DOE REVIEW COMPLETED.

The File - RD-103, Task Order 8

1 December 1958

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Trip Report - ABC

1. On 10 November 1958 a visit was made to the Atomic Energy Commission, Germantown, Maryland to discuss the Radioisotope Power Supply being furnished by the ABC for the AS-6. Participating in discussions concerning this program were:

Lt. Col. Gouveren Anderson, Chief, Systems for Nuclear Power Section, ABC
Maj. George Ogburn, Aircraft Reactor Branch

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2. The possibility that we might require two field power supplies instead of one was broached to the ABC representatives prior to [redacted] arrival, and they were asked whether there is a sufficient supply of promethium to fuel an additional unit. Col. Anderson said that he felt an additional unit could be provided for the cost of the fuel alone since the [redacted] which is developing this equipment was planning to build two power supplies, for safety sake, even though we asked for only one originally. He said he could see no problem regarding the availability of promethium.

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3. When [redacted] arrived the writer revealed CIA's interest in this program to him and asked him to sign a secrecy agreement. He was told that he was being processed for a TOP SECRET agency clearance and that until it was granted, no additional information could be given him. The ABC representatives, who are aware of the operational purpose of the AS-6, have TOP SECRET liaison clearances with this Office. The Office of Security has advised that Mr. [redacted] on the basis of his "Q" clearance may be informed of Agency interest in the program and may participate in technical discussions.

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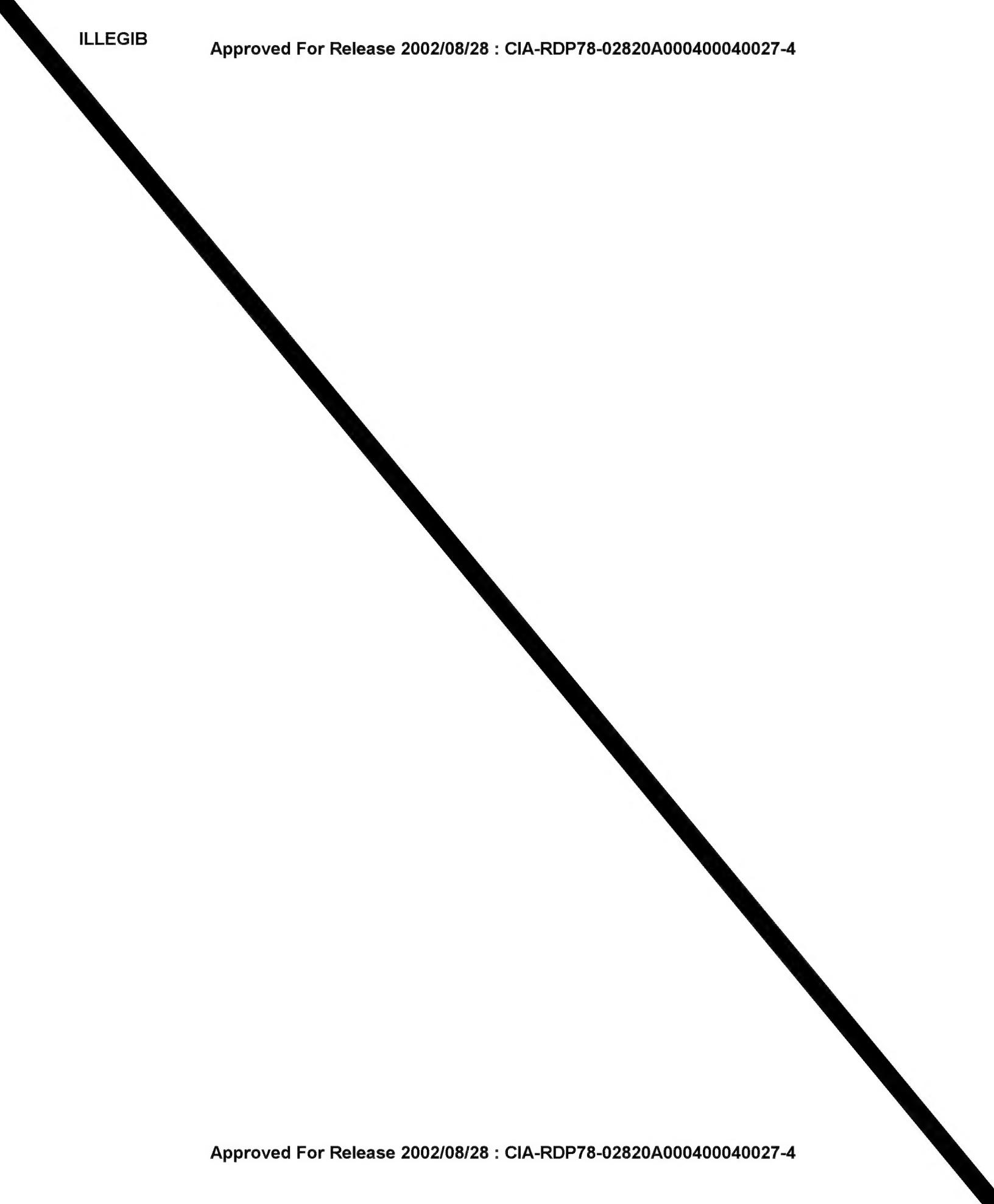
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4. [redacted] reported that progress on the power supply has to date been generally satisfactory. He said that a proposal for a 500 to 800 milliwatt thermocouple generator had been received from [redacted] Company and that a letter of intent has been issued by [redacted] He said that this generator would be built in the form of a 7" sphere, and be activated by a 1½" ceramic ball of promethium. Such spherical radioisotopes have

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9. The AEC plans to deliver the first AP-6 power supply on 15 April 1958. It will be fueled with depleted plutonium and will supply operating power for 30 days. They estimated that the second and third units would be delivered on 15 and 31 July 1959.

[Redacted] 25X1

cc-L/R+D-EP/WJS:bc (1 December 1958)

cc: R+D Subject File

~~Monthly Report~~

R+D Lab

TBS/APD

TBS/CD

AEC Liaison File

R+D Chrono

EP Chrono

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